



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

A collection of statements, tools and initiatives related to

Aqua fons vitae

from the Holy See and the Catholic Church

Vatican City, November 2020

“When we speak of the need to care for our common home, our planet, we appeal to that spark of universal consciousness and mutual concern that may still be present in people’s hearts. Those who enjoy a surplus of water yet choose to conserve it for the sake of the greater human family have attained a moral stature that allows them to look beyond themselves and the group to which they belong. How marvellously human!”

Pope Francis, encyclical letter *Fratelli tutti*, § 117.

Foreword

Following the publication of the document *Aqua fons vitae* earlier this year, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development presents this collection of inspiring material related to water. This collection, which was announced in the aforementioned document (§ 19), includes magisterial documents, lectures, advocacy campaigns, statements pronounced at the United Nations, tools and descriptions of ongoing projects.

The material gathered relates to water according to the three dimensions described in *Aqua fons vitae*: 1-water for human use; 2-water as a resource used in many human activities; 3-water as a space which includes rivers, aquifers and oceans.

Several documents have not been published directly by the Holy See and projects in many countries have not been assessed or implemented with the collaboration of the Dicastery. Thus, by referencing them here, the Dicastery is not endorsing them.

This said, the Dicastery is happy to present this material as a whole, as it can make a usefully contribute to reflection, sharing, collaboration and decision-making. It is also a way to demonstrate and further promote the diversity of commitments within the Church about integral human development and water.

The Dicastery expresses its gratitude to those who contributed to this compilation, and prays for God's blessing and guidance for all those who are currently involved in the initiatives hereby presented.

The links have been verified on November 20th, 2020.

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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SUPREME PONTIFFS

Usually available in various languages on the website of the Vatican.

Pope Francis

- [Video message to maritime personnel and their families, 17 June 2020](#)
- [Address during the meeting with Bishops of the Mediterranean, Bari, 23 February 2020](#)
- [Message for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 1 September 2018](#)
- [Address to the participants in the Workshop “The human right to water” which took place in the Vatican, 24 February 2017](#)
- [Message to the participants in the Conference “The Common Good and our Common Sea” which took place in Copenhagen \(3-5 May 2019\), 16 April 2019](#)
- [Message to the Director General of the FAO in occasion of the World Water Day, 22 March 2019](#)
- [Message to the participants at a Study day on Water promoted by the FAO in Madrid, 13 December 2018](#)
- [Message \(on behalf of the Holy Father\) to the Budapest Water Summit, October 2019](#)
- [Letter on behalf of the Holy Father to the “Our Ocean” Conference which took place in Malta \(5-6 October 2017\), 27 September 2017](#)
- [Encyclical letter Laudato si’, § 27-31, 40, 41, 174](#)
- [Post-synodal exhortation Querida Amazonia, § 43-47](#)

Pope Benedict XVI

- [Message \(on behalf of the Holy Father\) to the Director General of the FAO in occasion of the World Water Day, 22 March 2007](#)

Pope Saint John Paul II

- [Message to the Director General of the FAO in occasion of the World Food Day, 13 October 2002](#)
- [Apostolic letter Stella Maris on the Maritime Apostolate, 31 January 1997](#)
- Liturgy of the Word with the people of the sea in Gdynia, Poland, 11 June 1987 [[ITALIAN](#)] [[POLISH](#)]
- [Address to the members of the fishing community in Newfoundland, Canada, 12 September 1984](#)

- [Homily in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, 10 May 1980](#)

Pope Saint Paul VI

- Angelus and prayer for the rain, 4 July 1976 [[ITALIAN](#)]

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- [Statement](#) during the 31st General Assembly of the International Maritime Organization, 27 November 2019
- [Statement](#), Council of the International Seabed Authority, Kingston, July 2017
- [Statement](#) during the 25th Session of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Seabed Authority, July 2009
- [Statement “The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation”](#) in the Palais des Nations of Geneva, 14 September 2017
- Message of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in the occasion of the World Fisheries Day celebrated online with the FAO, 20 November 2020 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[FRENCH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[SPANISH](#)]
- Message of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in the occasion of the World Fisheries Day celebrated at FAO, 21 November 2019 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[FRENCH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[SPANISH](#)]
- [Message](#) of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in the occasion of the World Fisheries Day celebrated at FAO, 21 November 2018
- [Statement](#) during the Interactive Dialogue on Water and Sanitation – Item 3, 39th Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, 10 September 2018
- [Intervention](#) during the First dialogue to discuss improving the integration and coordination of the work of the UN on the water-related goals and targets under its sustainable development pillar, New York, 22 March 2017
- [Intervention](#) during the Preparatory meeting for the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14. Discussion on “Themes for Partnership Dialogues”, February 2017
- Message of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People in the occasion of the World Fisheries Day celebrated at FAO, 21 November 2015, [[FRENCH](#)]
- [Intervention](#) during the “United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable

Development. Partnership dialogue 2: Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems”, New York, 6 June 2017

- [Intervention](#) during the “United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development”, New York, 7 June 2017
- [Intervention](#) in the occasion of the World Fisheries Day celebrated at FAO, 21 November 2018
- Pontifical Commission “Iustitia et Pax”, [The Universal Purpose of Created Things. Conference on the Law of the Sea](#), 1979 (republished in 2011).
- Statement of the Holy See during the meeting of the Natural Sciences Commission, 40th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, 19 November 2019 [[FRENCH](#)]

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HOLY SEE

- Statement during the 8th World Water Forum (Brasilia), 2018 [[FRENCH](#)]
- Contribution to the 6th World Water Forum (Marseille), 2012 [[FRENCH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)]
- Contribution to the 5th World Water Forum (Istanbul), 2009 [[ITALIAN](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)]
- Contribution to the 4th World Water Forum (Mexico), 2006 [[FRENCH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)]
- Contribution to the 3rd World Water Forum (Kyoto), 2003 [[ITALIAN](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)]
- Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Statement on Water and the Environment, November 2005 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Pontifical Academy of Sciences, [The Proceedings of the Working Group “Water and the Environment” 12-14 November 2005](#), Scripta Varia 108, 2007
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Message for Sea Sunday, 12 July 2020 [[FRENCH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)].
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, [Message for Sea Sunday, 14 July 2019](#) [[ITALIAN](#)] [[FRENCH](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)]
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, [Message for Sea Sunday, 8 July 2018](#) [[ITALIAN](#)] [[FRENCH](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)]
- Cardinal Peter Turkson, [Address during the Conference “The Oceans, Caring for a common heritage”](#), Holy Cross University in Rome, 4 July 2017

- Cardinal Peter Turkson, Letter on the occasion of the Centenary of the Stella Maris, 4 October 2020 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[FRENCH](#)]
- Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, [Address during the Conference “Watershed”](#) at the Augustinianum in Rome, 22 March 2017
- Archbishop Paul Gallagher, [reading of a message of Cardinal Pietro Parolin and speech during the Conference “Watershed”](#) at the Augustinianum in Rome, 22 March 2017.
- [Intervention of the Holy See](#), during the Our Ocean Conference, Bali, October 2018.
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, communiqué in the occasion of the World Water Day 22 March 2019 [[FRENCH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)] [[ENGLISH](#)].

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH AND FROM CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Publications and statements

- Caritas Internationalis, [position paper in the occasion of the 2018 World Water Forum](#)
- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, [Statement on the Right to safe Drinking Water](#), November 2018
- Cardinal John Ribat, [Videomessage to the participants in the Conference “The Common Good and our Common Sea”](#), May 2019
- Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti, address for the inauguration of the academic year 2019/2020 of the Istituto Teologico “San Tommaso”, 13 December 2019 [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Cardinal Walter Kasper, [article “The Symbol of Water in the Biblical, Patristic and Liturgical Tradition”](#), in Religion, Science and the Environment *The Adriatic Sea. A sea at risk, a unity of purpose* (Greece, 2003), republished here with the kind permission of the author
- Message “L’acqua, benedizione della terra” adopted by the Commission for Social Affairs, Work, Justice and Peace of the Italian Conference of Bishops (31 May 2020) and published by *Avvenire* in view of the day of Thanksgivings [[ITALIAN](#)]
- [Integrity of Creation Working Group of the USG-UISG, Reflections on Water, 2018](#)
- [Caritas in veritate Foundation, Water and Human Rights, Switzerland, August 2017](#)
- Bishop Luis Infanti de la Mora, pastoral letter *Danos hoy el agua de cada día*, September 2008 [[SPANISH](#)]

- [Bishop Jacyr Braido, Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea in Brazil, lecture “The man in the sea and Jesus: it is the Lord!”](#), and [Fr. John Leydon, Colomban Missionary in Manila, lecture “People of the Sea God’s co-workers in creation”](#), both lectures published in Pontifical Council for the pastoral care of Migrants and Itinerant People, *People of the Sea. Co-workers with God in Creation*, proceedings of the XX World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea which took place in the Philippines (19-25 October 1997), Vatican City 1998 [[FRENCH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)]
- Bishop Ambrogio Spreafico, excerpts of the book *Capolavoro imperfetto* (Italy, 2019) republished here with the kind permission of the Publishing house EDB [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Father Sean McDonagh, [excerpts of the book *Dying for Water*](#) (Ireland, 2003) republished here with the kind permission of the Publishing house Veritas
- Michel Roy, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, address “Access to Safe and Clean Water: a Fundamental, Universal and Essential Human Right” during the XXX International Conference organized by the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers in the Vatican (19-20 November 2015) and published in the journal *Dolentium Hominum* n. 88, 2015, page 92 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[ITALIAN](#)]
- [“Caritas State of the Environment for Oceania Report: Waters of Life, Oceans of Mercy”](#), 2018
- [“Caritas State of the Environment for Oceania Report: Turning the Tide”](#), 2017
- Caritas Switzerland, [Excerpt IC Programme 2020: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene](#)
- [The Bishops of Queensland, Pastoral letter on the Great Barrier Reef, “Let the Many Coastlands be Glad!”](#), 8 June 2004
- [“The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good” An International Pastoral Letter by the Catholic Bishops of the Region \(USA and Canada\)](#), 8 January 2001
- Press release by Justitia et Pax Europa and The Global Catholic Climate Movement, [“European Justice and Peace Commissions Unite in Call to Protect Water”](#), 30 September 2018
- CRS (Catholic Relief Services), “Water and Conflict. Incorporating peacebuilding into water development”, Baltimore 2009 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)]
- CRS, Water Security Strategy for 2030 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)] [a summary also in [FRENCH](#)]
- UISG Campaign [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#), 2019

- Manos Unidas, Caritas España, Comisión general Justicia y Paz España (and others), the water-related leaflet from the Campaign “Enlázate por la justicia”, 2019 [[SPANISH](#)]
- Mons. Fernando Chica Arellano, article “Perspectiva eclesial sobre el derecho al agua”, in the magazine *Cáritas* n° 575, March-April 2018 [[SPANISH](#)]
- Mons. Fernando Chica Arellano, article “La sostenibilità sociale nel settore della pesca e dell’acquacoltura. Comunità internazionale e Santa Sede a confronto”, in the magazine *Studi Emigrazione* LVII, n. 218, 2020 [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Father Joshtrom I. Kureethadam, [lecture “Aqua fons vitae: Water and Christianity”, 2018](#)
- Tebaldo Vinciguerra, article “L’eau comme bien commun : une question de culture, d’éducation et de spiritualité”, published on the IUCN website, June 2019 [[FRENCH](#)]
- Tebaldo Vinciguerra, article “Il diritto all’acqua al tempo del covid”, published in the *Osservatore Romano*, 14 November 2020 page 11 [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Apostleship of the Sea United Kingdom, [Stella Maris magazine](#)
- Caritas Australia, [A prayer for water](#)

Tools, projects, manuals and other working documents

- Federation of Asian Bishop’s Conferences, Office for Human Development, Climate Change Desk, [booklet “Reflections on Aqua fons vitae” prepared for the Season of Creation 2020](#), August 2020
- CAFOD, [The Lifesaving Water Filter](#), May 2017
- Justitia et Pax Europa, [annual Concerted action The Common Good of the Seas](#), February 2020
- Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, [Just Water: Climate Change in the Pacific, Teacher booklet](#), 2017
- CRS, CAFOD, Trocaire and Caritas Australia, [Environmental Stewardship Tool](#), October 2019
- LaSalle Centroamérica-Panama, Guía N° 6, assessment tool for water consumption [[SPANISH](#)]
- Caritas Switzerland (in partnership with the Water Integrity Network), [Improving the integrity of community groups managing water supply systems. Creating a platform for collective action to improve performance and compliance of services delivery in rural areas](#). Case study in Kenya, September 2018
- [Azure](#), a project combining technical expertise and impact investing in Salvador promoted by CRS (in partnership with a Salvadoran-based social enterprise)

- CAFOD (in partnership with Bridges), [Life without Taps, A simulation game for KS2 and KS3](#), 2012
- [Wikiwater](#), a tool launched by a volunteer of Secours Catholique Caritas France in 2012
- Order of Malta / Malteser International, WASH Guidelines for field practitioners [Part 1: Water](#), 2014; [Part 2: Sanitation](#), 2012; [Part 3: Hygiene](#), 2017
- [Manchay Verde](#), a project (wastewater for irrigation) promoted by the Archdiocese of Lima, officially launched in 2009 [[SPANISH](#)]
- Tuuru Water Scheme, a project in Kenya (access to water) initiated in the 1970s and promoted by Brother Giuseppe Argese, article “Mukiri: uomo dell’acqua e costruttore di chiese”, published in the magazine *Missioni Consolata*, February 2008 [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Amazi Meza, a project (access to water) in Burundi promoted by New Humanity and implemented by several NGOs, article “La sfida di Amazi Mza può essere vinta insieme!” by Prof. Alessio Valente, July 2020 [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Franciscans International (in partnership with Waterlex), [The Right to Water and Sanitation. A practical guide](#), Switzerland 2011.
- [Well4Africa, a project \(access to water\) in Africa promoted since 2018 by the Secular Franciscan Order](#)
- Water tanks project by Caritas Brazil NE2, article “Cáritas NE2 e famílias celebram entrega de cisternas”, March 2017 [[PORTUGUESE](#)]
- Misereor, A handbook for socio-economic analysis and management of water-supply facilities, 2013. [Volume 1: socio-economic analysis of the environment](#); [Volume 2: management of water-supply facilities](#); [Volume 3: calculating the costs of sustainable water-supply services in rural areas](#)
- Misereor, Promotion Guidelines for Water Programmes and Projects in Africa, 2003 [[ENGLISH](#)] [[FRENCH](#)] [[PORTUGUESE](#)]
- Laudato Si Foundation of the Archdiocese of Madrid, research programme “Laudato Si and international environmental cooperation in waters and forests” [[ENGLISH](#)] [[SPANISH](#)] [[FRENCH](#)]

INPUTS FROM SPEAKERS IN CONFERENCES CO-ORGANIZED BY THE DICASTERY

Conference “The Common Good and Our Common Sea” (3-5 May 2019, in Copenhagen)

- The message of [Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries to the participants of the conference](#)
- [A testimony from the Pacific Ocean](#) proposed by Archbishop Peter Loy Chong (Fiji)
- Slides: Dr. Jens Olaf Pepke Pedersen, Senior scientist, National Space Institute of the Technical University of Denmark: [The State of the Oceans](#)
- Slides: Mr. Bernard Combes, UNESCO Programme Specialist, Education for Sustainable Development, and Education Sector Focal Point for Biodiversity: [Learning about Oceans: Multiple-Perspective Approaches](#)
- Slides: Mr Árne M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO: [Fisheries: Sustainable Projects to Promote Livelihood and Culture](#)
- Slides: Dr. Jessica Sparks, Research Fellow in Antislavery and Ecosystems, Nottingham University, UK: [Links between Environmental Degradation and Modern Slavery in Marine Capture Fisheries](#)
- Slides: Simon C. Bergulf, Director Regulatory Affairs, A.P. Møller–Maersk: [Achieving the net zero, Maersk’s vision for carbon neutral shipping](#)
- Slides: Director, Client Investments, CCLA Investment Management, Edward Kirwan: [Placing our Money in the Service of Humanity](#)
- Slides: Mr Emil Lindblad Kernell, The Danish Institute for Human Rights: [Seafarer’s Rights in the Globalised Maritime Industry](#)
- Slides: A Rocha International, Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme, Dr Robert Sluka: [Christian Marine Conservation in practice](#)
- Slides: Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of the International Maritime University of Malmö: [How to Form Future Leaders to Preserve and Sustain our Common Seas](#)
- Slides: Mr. Martin Foley, National Director of Stella Maris, The Apostleship of the Sea United Kingdom: [Serving the People of the Sea](#)
- Slides: Mr. Martin Foley, National Director of Stella Maris, The Apostleship of the Sea United Kingdom: [Ship Visiting](#)
- Slides: Mrs. Cecilia Dall’Oglio, European Programs Manager at the Global Catholic Climate Movement: [Co-workers with God in Creation](#)

- Slides: Daniela Finamore, Divest-Invest & European Programs Coordinator: [The Global Catholic Climate Movement and the Catholic Fossil Fuels Divestment project](#)
- Slides: Mrs. Amy W. Echeverria, Founding Board President at the Global Catholic Climate Movement and International Coordinator for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation: [Hearing the Song and the Cry of the Seas](#)
- Slides: Chair of the Board of the Global Island Partnership, Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni: [How to Build Resilient and Sustainable Island Communities](#)

Conference “Governing a common good: access to drinkable water for all” (8 November 2018, Pontifical Urbaniana University)

- [Speech](#): Mrs. Callista L. Gingrich, US Ambassador to the Holy See, during the reception the evening before the Conference
- Speech: Mr. Pietro Sebastiani, Italian Ambassador to the Holy See [[ITALIAN](#)]
- Speech: Mons. Bruno-Marie Duffé, Secretary of the Dicastery [[FRENCH](#)]
- Speech: Mr. Rosario Lembo, President CICMA (Italian Committee World Water Contract) [[ITALIAN](#)]
- [Videomessage](#): Prof. Antonio Herman Benjamin, Justice of the National High Court of Brazil
- [Speech](#): Prof. George P. Hagan, former Chairman of the National Commission on Culture of Ghana
- [Slides](#): Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Secretary General of the International Network of Basin Organizations
- [Slides](#): Mr. Alessandro Russo, Chairman of Cap Holding (integrated water service of the metropolitan area of Milan), Deputy Chairman of Aqua Publica Europea
- [Slides](#): Prof. Armando Brath, University of Bologna, Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering
- [Slides](#): Dr. Abdelmajid Tribak, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Division of Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources Science and Technology Directorate
- [Slides](#): Prof. Nicole Bernex, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Department of Humanities, Section for Geography and Environment
- [Talking points](#): Eng. Olcay Ünver, Deputy Director of the Land and Water Division of FAO, and Vice-Chair of UN-Water

- [Speech](#): Mr. David Douglas, president of Waterlines, and principal of the advocacy initiative Global Water 2020
- [Slides](#): Mrs. Lucia M. M. Adamo, Coordinator of the O Viveiro Project (Mozambique)
- [Slides](#): Mrs. Keila Marães Giffoni, Executive Secretary of the “Region North II” of Caritas Brasil
- [Slides](#): Prof. Léo Heller, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- [Slides](#): H.E. Mons. Lucas Kalfa Sanou, Bishop of Banfora (Burkina Faso), President of the Board of the Foundation John Paul II for the Sahel
- Abstract: Prof. Luca Pandolfi, Pontifical Urban University, Faculty of Missiology
[[ITALIAN](#)]

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

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www.humandevelopment.va

info@humandevelopment.va